

I am concerned about the use of switched digital video ("SDV") by some cable companies and its impact on unidirectional cable ready products ("UDCPs").

SDV will not be available to UDCPs and should be very limited in use until two way cable ready products ("TWCPs") are readily and commonly available.

For example limit SDV to items that can not be viewed by UDCPs such as pay per view ("PPV") or video on demand ("VOD").

For example the TiVo S3 DVR, a UDCP product, is to be released soon and would be at an unfair disadvantage to the providers own DVR where SDV is used on an non PPV or non VOD channel.

TWC CTO Mike LaJoie said his company has SDV deployed in Austin; Columbia, SC; and a third unannounced system. He said it will be in four to six systems next year and that the bandwidth savings thus far have exceeded 50 percent.

To save 50% of the bandwidth SDV will have to be used on almost all of the channels. This would make UDCPs useless almost all of the channels.